

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498

Serial No. 09/916,903

Reply to Final Office Action dated: 5/05/06

Response dated: 7/17/06

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Amendments to the Specification

In the Applicant's Specification, beginning on page 11, line 18, please replace the paragraph beginning "Continuing with step 214" and ending with "subset of channels" with the following amended paragraph:

"Continuing with step 214, once the channels that contain programming are separated from those that do not, the channels that contain programming can be combined to form a subset of channels with programming. As shown in step 216, this subset of channels can be stored into memory. In one arrangement, the subset of channels can be one or more channel indicators, which can be stored in memory. As an example, the channel indicators can preferably be channel numbers or any other suitable means for identifying a particular channel. At step 218, these channel indicators can then be provided to a display device. Since the display device can access a subset of channels containing programming, the display device can skip over the channels that do not carry any programming thereby eliminating the delay associated with browsing through these non-programming channels. Moreover, should the status of one or more of the channels change, for example, if programming is added to a channel that previously carried no programming, then the process can be re-initiated to add (or delete) channels from the subset of channels. At step 220, the process is ended."

In the Applicant's Specification, beginning on page 6, line 9, please replace the paragraph beginning "As noted earlier" and ending with "contains programming" with the following amended paragraph:

"As noted earlier, many of these channels, even though they have a broadcast signal, may not contain any programming. For purposes of clarity, the display obtained from these non-programming channels will be referred to as still video patterns. To eliminate the delay associated with browsing through the non-programming channels, the storage medium device 114 can process one or more of these channels to determine which of the incoming channels contains programming. In one arrangement, the encoder ~~444~~ 116 can encode a portion of one or more of the incoming channels. Thus, an encoded signal can be created for one or more of these channels. The microprocessor 120 can then process a portion of one or more of these encoded signals to determine which channels contain actual programming and which channels contain still video patterns. Once the microprocessor 120 determines that a particular channel contains programming, that channel

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number or channel indicator can be stored in memory 118, which can then be accessed by the display device 122. In addition, the audio detection circuit 124 can determine whether any audio exists on a particular channel. Detecting audio can improve the accuracy of the system 100, as the channels that do not contain programming typically do not carry an audio signal. In an alternative arrangement, the audio detection circuit 124 can be used by itself to determine whether a channel contains programming."